LOCAL NEWS

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Navy Aircraft Make Trials

'Turkeys' to Buzz City

Victoria is going to get pretty thoroughly "buzzed" by "Turkeys" for 12 days starting today.

For five hours every day, 2½ in the morning and the same in the afternoon, an Avenger aircraft from VU 33 Squadron, Patricia Bay, will be making passes over the city at altitudes as low at 1,000 feet.

The flights are being conducted during exhaustive tracking and fire control equipment trials aboard the new navy destroyer escort Terra Nova, built at VMD shipyards, Dallas Road.

RCN spokesmen said one plane would be up at a time, but many runs over the ship would be made during the extensive trials.

The Avenger aircraft, a conventional single-engined Second World War craft, are called "Turkeys" by airmen.

The navy said the Turkeys would be flying low over the city at comparatively slow speeds starting at 9 a.m. and again at 1.15 p.m., each day of the trials.

The Terra Nova is not due for commissioning for several months, spokesmen said.

Hilarious heat in five-event pancake racing championships at Ganges Shrove Tuesday celebrations ended disastrously for Mrs. Lou Buskira, at finish line, when she flipped herself instead of the pancake and failed to finish on her feet. Mrs. Nony Humphries, left, won the heat when she negotiated 50-yard course at a fast clip while furiously flipping pancake in skillet. Program is one of three of the kind in world.

Mystery Illness

You-Name-It, You-Have-It

Many Students Out of School

A you-name-it, you-can-have-it illness has contributed to a sharp increase in the number of absentees from Greater Victoria schools this week.

Dr. Elizabeth Mahaffy, Victoria-Esquimalt medical health officer, said yesterday she didn't know whether to call it a 'flu-like cold or a cold-like 'flu, but that most people suffering from it had sore throats.

As an example of the sharp increase in absentees, Dr. Mahaffy said 90 students were absent from S. J. Willis Junior High School Monday and 123 yesterday, compared with about 30 normally.

NOT YET DETERMINED

But, she said, it had not yet been determined how much of the absenteeism was attributable to the 'flu-like illness and how much to snow and its after-effects.

Elsewhere on the health front, Dr. Mahaffy reported communicable diseases at normal or below-normal levels with the exception of chickenpox. Chickenpox, she said, seemed to be following its usual pattern of climbing to a peak every second spring.

SEVEN CASES

Last week there were seven cases in Victoria-Esquimalt district and 38 in Saanich district.

Around the Island

Nanaimo Club Must Have Hall Or Close Doors

NANAIMO — If the civic properties and recreation commission do not provide Brechin Community Club with a hall, the organization will likely go out of existence and the money it has will be turned over to some "worthwhile cause."

The club is claiming that the former parks board promised to replace the old A.R.P. hall with a new community hall on Mansfield Park after it was relinquished to the board some years ago.

Mrs. F. Day, secretary, said the present commission would be "reneging on an obligation" if it delayed construction of a community hall in Brechin any longer. She said the club had been forced into inactivity during the past 18 months because it had no place to stage fund-raising functions. Mansfield Park has been named a "number one" project for 1959 by the recreation commission.

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DUNCAN—Pleading guilty to driving while his licence was under suspension, Morris Mitchell Doney of Duncan was fined $150 in police court here.

He went through a red light and then failed to stop when hailed by police in a cruiser car, court was told.

George Fraser, of Duncan, was fined $240 and costs on a charge of impaired driving. He pleaded guilty.

Magistrate Col. A. C. Sutton order Fraser to use his licence for business driving only for a period of six months.

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PORT ALBERNI—The proposed raise in per capita cost of Vancouver Island Union Library does not meet with the approval of Mayor Loran Jordon.

At council meeting Monday, Ald. J. R. Dalton reported that the board had decided on a 15-cent raise to bring the fee to $1.25. The raise, he said, will provide for a 20 per cent salary increase for the staff who have not had a raise for several years.

Mayor Jordon described the charge as "iniquitous." "People who can't read English are helping to pay for the library," he said.

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DUNCAN—Brock Chisholm, former director-general of the World Health Organization, will be the guest speaker here Feb. 16, at a meeting of the Duncan-Alexander PTA. The meeting is being held in the Cowichan High School. Officers of the Duncan-Alexander PTA have invited representatives of all PTAs from Ladysmith to Cobble Hill and Shawnigan Lake.

Topic of Mr. Chisholm's lecture will be "Growing Up In A New World."

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NANAIMO — Fred Armstrong received a one-year perfect attendance pin at the Downtown Kiwanis Club meeting yesterday. New committee heads Frank Hodgson, attendance and membership, and Lloyd Hanley, vocational guidance, were named by president Art Lionel.

PORT ALBERNI — Teen Town hut, site of many youth activities in the past 10 years, will go on the market.

Port Alberni council on Monday night decided to call for bids for sale and removal from its present site of the former army camp building which has been the home of the organization almost since its inception.

Port Alberni Sharpshooters Club applied last week for the building and council decided that bids from local non-profit organizations who have a legitimate use for the building will be given preference.

The purchaser will be required to post a $100 guarantee that the site will be left clean.

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The award of two contracts by the Department of Transport was announced yesterday by the district marine agent, Victoria.

Johnson and Hobbs of Victoria successfully tendered for the construction of a two-bedroom dwelling at Scarlett Point light station. Amount of the contract is $25,200.

McGinnis Bros. of Alert Bay have been awarded a contract for $22,894 for the construction of a similar building at Pulteney Point light station.

Scarlett Point, located on Balaklava Island and Pulteney Point on Malcolm Island, are two of the light and fog alarm stations serving as aids to navigation for marine traffic using the Inside Passage via Queen Charlotte Strait. Both were originally established in 1905.

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PORT ALBERNI — Negotiations have apparently broken down between Port Alberni city council and the Civic Workers' Union.

At council meeting Monday, Ald. Fred Weaver, chairman of the bargaining committee, recommended that no further offer be made following the rejection by the union of the last offer.

Stan Wilson, secretary of the union, said that he had informed council that if no further offer is forthcoming the union will apply for conciliation proceedings.

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PARKSVILLE — A site for Parksville's new fire hall was chosen at the regular meeting of the council when it was decided to purchase two lots for the purpose from Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Bullock.

The property is situated near the corner of Pioneer Crescent adjacent to the Trading Post store.

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PARKSVILLE—The regular meeting of Mt. Arrowsmith Branch 49, Canadian Legion, will be held at the Legion Hall at 8 p.m. today.

W. G. Symons will show pictures and speak on the Canadian occupation of Iceland.

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NANAIMO—The new school for retarded children in Nanaimo will be officially opened Feb. 28, local association president Mrs. Margaret Davidson announced yesterday.

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Beating a blinding snowstorm, balancing a flipping pancake and running 50 yards at full speed is no easy stunt, even for Mrs. Kay Booth, a second year "expert" in the annual Ganges Shrove Tuesday pancake race.

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Flapjack Flippers Race in Snowstorm

Salt Spring Islanders Maintain Old Custom

GANGES—Five Salt Spring Island hotcake flippers floundered to the fore in the annual Canadian championship "pancake races" marking Shrove Tuesday here.

A great-grandmother and a couple of teen-agers were among the winners in five heats as more than 45 contestants covered a 50-yard course while flipping a pancake in a pan.

To complicate an already "hazardous" event the races were run off in a heavy snow storm.

The pancake race is an old English custom that originated hundreds of years ago to make a final day of merriment before the dawn of Ash Wednesday and the beginning of Lent.

Pancake races were run only in Olney, England, and Liberal, Kan., until last year when they were introduced to Salt Spring Island as a centennial project by Mrs. Anne Williams of Ganges.

SO MUCH FUN

The event proved so much fun that it was repeated again yesterday and will be held here annually.

The races in Olney and Liberal are run over a "regulation" course of 415 yards. The Salt Spring Island racers take it easy and only run 50 yards.

But things will be changed in future.

WHOLE DISTANCE

"The custom has been forgotten by the modern world," she said. "But pancake races are lots of fun and less gruesome than some old customs."

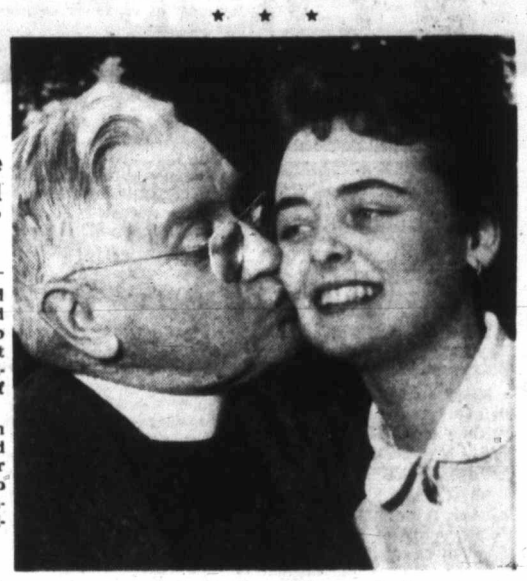
Salt Spring Islanders apparently agree with her and turned out 300-strong to witness the big race.

Winners, who received packages of pancake flour, were Mrs. A. B. Elliot, an energetic great-grandmother of 69; W. H. Bradley, winner of the men's heat; Nony Humphreys, women's class; Lyn Akerman, 14, teen-age class; and Paddy Wickens, 'youngsters' group.

BUSSED BY RECTOR

Race winners in days of old were bussed by the rector of the town.

Even this tradition was partially revived yesterday when Archdeacon G. H. Holmes, rector of St. George's Church bestowed a fatherly kiss on the fair cheek of Jennifer Graham, one of the young contestants.



Pretty Jennifer Graham, 17, receives kiss from Ven. G. H. Holmes of St. George's Church. Kisses are usually reserved for winners in English races. Ganges winners were awarded pancake flour.

More Budget-Stretching Tips

'Pensioner' Guest On Pancake Day

By TED SHACKLEFORD

For the first time I can remember, I had pancakes on Pancake Day, yesterday — as the guest of an 82-year-old pensioner in her small home in Victoria West.

And I gained a number of good tips to help me spin out my remaining money until the end of the month. Tips like putting a tiny pinch of bicarbonate of soda in a pot of tea to make it draw better.

Like adding half a cup of water to every quart of liquid milk, cooking rice and serving it with golden syrup as a sweet, and frying bread in margarine to make croutons so that soup is more filling.

WORTH TRIP

Mrs. Ethel Musgreave invited me to have pancakes with her shortly after I began this assignment. And the pancakes were well worth the trip.

After the meal we sat in her living room for a while and chatted. Mrs. Musgreave keeps too busy to get very lonely in her small home.

She does her own baking—even let me buy a loaf of her home-made bread—and keeps the house spotlessly clean. What with trips to the store and spending time with friends, Mrs. Musgreave has a busy time.

Mornings are spent listening to radio quiz programs in the hope that she will be phoned. So far she has missed out, but she still listens closely.

And in any spare moments, Mrs. Musgreave likes to play a small organ—mainly hymns.

And with her own reduced circumstances, Mrs. Musgreave still has time to feel sorry for pensioners with less than she has.

FINANCES REDUCED

Yesterday I reduced my finances by a further $2.40, leaving me $18.08 to carry me through to the end of the month, buying food, paying for the gas I am using in heating the room and in cooking, and saving something to cover laundry, dry cleaning and other expenses.

Colonist reporter Ted Shackleford has been assigned to live on $55 for a month to discover how senior citizens on old-age assistance payments live and what their problems are.

He will be available in The Daily Colonist office—EV 3-4111 — between 4 and 5 p.m. each day.

My bus trip to Mrs. Musgreave's cost 26 cents; I splurged and bought a six-ounce jar of instant coffee as a change from my regular two cups of tea ($1.37), some ends of bacon (15 cents), a tin of spinach (17 cents), a tin of sauerkraut (18 cents), four wieners (15 cents) and the loaf of bread (12 cents).

WIENERS, COFFEE

Breakfast yesterday was two bowls of shredded wheat and two cups of tea, lunch was soup and pancakes at Mrs. Musgreave's home, and dinner was soup, wieners and sauerkraut with coffee.

A number of Greater Victoria residents have sent in cheap, easy-to-prepare meal recipes which can be cooked on a hotplate. They will be published on the Colonist social page tomorrow.

And still more invitations for meals, offers of light work and offers of transport are needed for pensioners. Anyone who can help should telephone Mrs. Ethel Bevan at the Silver Threads Service, EV 2-5121, during the day.

Health Body Recommends Meat Bylaw

Passage of a bylaw barring the sale of uninspected meat in Victoria was recommended to city council yesterday by the Victoria-Esquimalt board of health.

Esquimalt already has such a bylaw.

According to a survey, 10 per cent of meat sold in Victoria comes from sources which are not under inspection, a board report said.

Manning to Show Tour Film at Sooke

John Manning of Victoria, youthful world traveller, will show films of his travels in Sooke Community Hall, Feb. 17, at 8 p.m. Proceeds will augment the new Sooke ambulance fund.

The program is under Sooke and North Sooke Women's Institute auspices.

Few Snow Flurries Today's Prediction

More clouds and cool temperatures were forecast for Greater Victoria today by weatherman William Mackie.

There might be a few snow flurries, he said, but a heavy snowfall is not expected.

Temperatures were expected to drop to the freezing point overnight and rise to about 37 degrees today.

Assessment Case

Court Rules Out B.C. Intervention

The provincial attorney-general's department sought unsuccessfully to intervene yesterday in the hearing of the Saanich plea for reduction of the municipality's residential assessment total in School District 61.

Court of revision hearing the case found itself competent to do so last Thursday, after long debate on its powers.

Alan B. MacFarlane, representing the attorney-general's department, sought yesterday to challenge the court's jurisdiction, claiming it had heard argument on one side only.

But the court ruled it had come to its decision and would not reconsider it.

The hearing was adjourned until Feb. 25, when Saanich is scheduled to call witnesses to try to prove that assessment levels are lower in the other parts of the school district and that, to avoid placing an unfair share of school costs on the Saanich ratepayers, the Saanich assessment total in the district should be reduced nearly 30 per cent.

The municipality is expected to make a similar plea Thursday before the court of revision for the Greater Victoria school district.